

Friday, September 22nd 2023

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Re: Comments from WA State Agencies

Agency service systems typically prioritize the most requested language services based in request which is a reactive practice that perpetuates the system's proficiency.

This kind of practice does not provide for an equitable action of language support that reflects 'true' linguistically and culturally responsive approaches.

The importance of colonization of indigenous communities is foundationally important to point out how assumptive systems can be. Communicative language (dominantly used today) typically reflects the oppressive action of squelching the indigenous language' whereby that language and or community had to enculturate and acculturate to survive.

Spain a Portugal are good examples of this across the Americas and West Indies where languages have evolved into a mixture of Indigenous and the colonizer's heritage.

To approach a community with the actionable intent that communicate that favors the oppressor's systems mutes the Indigenous voice. Approach should be to support the 'true' indigenous language 1st and then attempt to bridge when necessary a hybrid or alternative language, but not starting w/what is the convenient communicative vehicle for the system – which equates to oppression.